



PRIME MINISTER

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25 1983

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Some time ago I indicated that Australia ought to be looking at water resource and water conservation programs, and I questioned whether in recent times we have shown the kinds of imagination that has been exhibited by those who sponsored and began the Snowy Mountains Project. This project captured the imagination of all Australians. Now, in the middle of one of the worst droughts in history, and at a time of recession when we need more work for Australians, it is timely to embark on a further major expansion of conservation of Australia's very scarce water supplies.

Senator Carrick has proposed, and the Government has accepted, that we should support and fund a number of projects in a number of States. A list of these projects is attached to this statement. It is an indicative list: I shall be writing to the Premiers and Senator Carrick will be making arrangements with his State counterparts for consultations next week about the Commonwealth's proposals.

The major nationwide expansion which we are proposing involves:

- . a special 5-year supplementary programme to start immediately, aimed at accelerating the development of new water resource projects;
- . a 4-year extension of the existing National Water Resources programme to 1987/88.

Together, the two measures mean that the Commonwealth will spend about \$640 million over the next 5 years on water resources development projects around the nation.

The new 5-year program will cost \$70 million annually, and will concentrate on projects which can be started quickly, and which will generate substantial immediate employment.

This new supplementary program will be concerned with extending drought-proofing measures in rural areas, and further improving and securing town, city and industrial water supplies. The new program will generate up to 1,750 jobs initially in the construction sector, with a similar number of jobs being generated in the supplier industries and in the engineering profession.

In addition to these projects expanding and improving our water resources, the Commonwealth will fund three major feasibility projects. One of these projects is the turning back of certain rivers in Queensland into the inland; another is the turning inland of the northern rivers such as the Clarence River in New South Wales. We will fund these feasibility projects entirely.

There will be a further feasibility project about building one further major reservoir in the Snowy Mountains area. It is worth noting that if it hadn't been for the construction of the Dartmouth Dam many people who are dependent upon the Murray/Murrumbidgee system including South Australia would be in a desperate situation today.

It is expected that the feasibility projects will take about two years in each case, and they will provide the basis for future Government decisions.

The Government is also committed to meeting the full cost of the construction of the Burdekin River Dam, near Townsville in Queensland, and this will require about \$80 million over the next three years, subject to the details of the construction timetable.

The meetings between Senator Carrick and the State Ministers will settle the details and implementation of the new program. The Commonwealth will take full financial responsibility for providing about \$350 million over 5 years for the new program.

Expenditure by the Commonwealth on the extended national water resources program is estimated to average about \$40 million annually, and the States would be invited to continue to meet their share on a dollar-for-dollar basis as in the past.

We need to show foresight to make sure that our scarce water supplies are safeguarded and conserved so that they can be made available to future Australians.

INDICATIVE LIST OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

PROJECT	LOCATION	SIZE	DETAILS	LEAD TIME	CONSTRUCTION PERIOD
<u>NEW SOUTH WALES</u>					
Split Rock Dam	Manilla	372,000 ML	Augment supplies for irrigation, mainly cotton, in Namoi Valley	4 months	5 years
Glenbawn Dam Stage 2	Muswellbrook	750,000 ML	Augment water supplies in Hunter Valley	-	3 years
<u>VICTORIA</u>					
Lake Kerrimu Stage 3	Bacchus Marsh	74,000 ML	Increase storage capacity from 15,000 ML to 74,000 ML for outer metropolitan areas and irrigation of market gardening.	3 months	3 years
Piping Wimmera-Hallee water supply scheme Stage 1	Morshon - Ouyen - Swan Hill	-	Convert existing open channel stock and domestic supply to piped supply. Would save about 90,000 ML annually now lost by evaporation and seepage.	6 months	5-10 years
Mitchell River Dam	Bairnsdale	15,000 ML	Augment groundwater used for vegetable production, and urban supplies for Bairnsdale and holiday resorts on Gippsland Lakes.	3 months	5 years
<u>QUEENSLAND</u>					
Dawson River Weir	Theodore	-	Replace old timber weir and increase storage capacity for agriculture, mining and urban supplies	6 months	3 years
Macintyre River Weir	Coondiwindi	-	Regulate releases from storages to improve supplies for irrigation.	9 months	2 years
Awoonga Dam	Gladstone	125,000 ML	Augment supplies for urban and industrial purposes in the Gladstone region.	1 year	4 years

PROJECT	LOCATION	SIZE	DETAILS	LEAD TIME	CONSTRUCTION PERIOD
<u>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</u>					
Adelaide Water Filtration Scheme	Adelaide	-	Accelerate work on filtration scheme to overcome water quality problems originating in the Murray	-	8 years
Northern Towns Water Filtration Scheme	Iron Triangle Towns	-	Accelerate work on filtration scheme to overcome water quality problems originating in the Murray	-	8 years
Cobdogla Drainage Rehabilitation	Berri	-	Installations are nearing end of their economic life and will have to be replaced.	6 months	5 years
<u>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</u>					
Goldfields Pipeline Rehabilitation	Mundaring Dam to Kalgoorlie	-	Some of the original installations are uneconomic and will have to be replaced.	3 months	5 years
Harris Dam	Collie	80,000 ML	Provide good quality water to dilute salinity in supplies currently available from Wellington Dam.	9 months	4 years
Harvey Dam	Harvey	140,000 ML	Augment water supplies for the Harvey Irrigation Area - vegetables and whole milk for Perth and south-west	9 months	5 years
<u>TASMANIA</u>					
Craigbourne Dam	Coal River - north of Richmond	5,000 ML	A new dam for irrigation in the Coal River Valley	18 months	3 years

PROJECT	LOCATION	SIZE	DETAILS	LEAD TIME	CONSTRUCTION PERIOD
<u>RIVER MURRAY COMMISSION</u>					
Mid-Murray Storage	Euston	Increase of 30,000 ML	Raise level of existing weir to increase storage capacity and improve scope for improving regulation of releases from Hume/Darwinmouth storages.	6 months	3 years
Manindoo Lakes Storage	Manindoo (near Broken Hill)	Increase of 700,000 ML	Raise level of levee banks to increase storage capacity from 1.8 million ML to 2.5 million ML; additional yield of 46,000 ML.	6 months	3 years

STUDIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

Murray River Dam Investigations

Clarence River Diversion Study

North Queensland Coastal Rivers Inland Diversion Study